

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A rearview mirror assembly, comprising:
an information display at least partially positioned behind a reflective element with respect to an anticipated viewer;
said information display comprising a negative mode, backlit, liquid crystal display having at least two characters, each of said characters has individual backlighting associated therewith, wherein said backlighting of a given character is controllable independent of backlighting of any other character.
2. A rearview mirror assembly as in claim 1 further comprising a display driver having more outputs than said liquid crystal display has characters, wherein at least one output of said display driver is used to control said backlighting.
3. A rearview mirror assembly as in claim 1 wherein said reflective element is automatically dimming and the intensity of said backlit liquid crystal display is a function of the reflectivity of said automatically dimming reflective element.
4. A rearview mirror assembly as in claim 1 further comprising a diffuser positioned between a backlit liquid crystal display and backlighting associated with said liquid crystal display, wherein said diffuser redirects light rays emitted by said backlighting as a function of the position of said liquid crystal display relative to at least one anticipated viewer.
5. A rearview mirror assembly as in claim 1 further comprising a diffuser positioned between a backlit liquid crystal display, wherein said diffuser redirects light rays emitted by said backlighting as a function of a planar surface of said diffuser relative to a viewing angle of at least one anticipated viewer.
6. A rearview mirror assembly as in claim 1 wherein said reflective element is at least partially transmissive and an optimum light ray wavelength transmission of said

reflective element is substantially equal to the predominant wavelength of light rays emitted from said information display.

7. A rearview mirror assembly as in claim 1 wherein said reflective element is automatically dimming and the intensity of said backlit liquid crystal display is a function of an ambient light sensor.

8. A rearview mirror assembly as in claim 1 wherein said reflective element is automatically dimming and the intensity of said backlit liquid crystal display is a function of a glare light sensor.

9. An information display, comprising:

a liquid crystal display having at least two characters with each character having associated backlighting; and

a display driver having more outputs than said liquid crystal display has characters, wherein at least one output of said display driver is used to control said backlighting.

10. An information display as in claim 9 further comprising a diffuser positioned between a backlit liquid crystal display and backlighting associated with said liquid crystal display, wherein said diffuser redirects light rays emitted by said backlighting as a function of the position of said liquid crystal display relative to at least one anticipated viewer.

11. An information display as in claim 9 further comprising a diffuser positioned between a backlit liquid crystal display, wherein said diffuser redirects light rays emitted by said backlighting as a function of a planar surface of said diffuser relative to a viewing angle of at least one anticipated viewer.

12. A rearview mirror assembly, comprising:
a backlit liquid crystal display positioned behind an automatically dimming reflective element, wherein the intensity of said backlit liquid crystal display is a function of the reflectivity of said automatically dimming reflective element.
13. A rearview mirror assembly as in claim 12 further comprising a diffuser positioned between a backlit liquid crystal display and backlighting associated with said liquid crystal display, wherein said diffuser redirects light rays emitted by said backlighting as a function of the position of said liquid crystal display relative to at least one anticipated viewer.
14. A rearview mirror assembly as in claim 12 further comprising a diffuser positioned between a backlit liquid crystal display, wherein said diffuser redirects light rays emitted by said backlighting as a function of a planar surface of said diffuser relative to a viewing angle of at least one anticipated viewer.
15. A rearview mirror assembly as in claim 12 wherein said reflective element is at least partially transmissive and an optimum light ray wavelength transmission of said reflective element is substantially equal to the predominant wavelength of light rays emitted from said information display.
16. A rearview mirror assembly as in claim 12 wherein said reflective element is automatically dimming and the intensity of said backlit liquid crystal display is a function of an ambient light sensor.
17. A rearview mirror assembly as in claim 12 wherein said reflective element is automatically dimming and the intensity of said backlit liquid crystal display is a function of a glare light sensor.
18. An information display, comprising:
a diffuser positioned between a backlit liquid crystal display and backlighting associated with said liquid crystal display, wherein said diffuser redirects light rays

emitted by said backlighting as a function of at least one of the following; the position of said liquid crystal display relative to at least one anticipated viewer and a planar surface of said diffuser relative to a viewing angle of at least one anticipated viewer.

19. A rearview mirror assembly, comprising:

an information display at least partially positioned behind a reflective element with respect to an anticipated viewer;

said information display comprising a negative mode, backlit, liquid crystal display having at least two characters, each of said characters has individual backlighting associated therewith, wherein said backlighting of a given character is controllable independent of backlighting of any other character;

a display driver having more outputs than said liquid crystal display has characters, wherein at least one output of said display driver is used to control said backlighting; and

a diffuser positioned between a backlit liquid crystal display and backlighting associated with said liquid crystal display, wherein said diffuser redirects light rays emitted by said backlighting as a function of at least one of the following; the position of said liquid crystal display relative to at least one anticipated viewer and a planar surface of said diffuser relative to a viewing angle of at least one anticipated viewer;

wherein said reflective element is automatically dimming and the intensity of said backlit liquid crystal display is a function of the reflectivity of said automatically dimming reflective element; and

wherein said reflective element is at least partially transmissive and an optimum light ray wavelength transmission of said reflective element is substantially equal to the predominant wavelength of light rays emitted from said information display.

20. A rearview mirror assembly as in claim 19 wherein said reflective element is automatically dimming and the intensity of said backlit liquid crystal display is a function of an ambient light sensor.

21. A rearview mirror assembly as in claim 19 wherein said reflective element is automatically dimming and the intensity of said backlit liquid crystal display is a function of a glare light sensor.

22. A rearview mirror assembly, comprising:
an information display and a reflective element, wherein said reflective element is at least partially transmissive and an optimum light ray wavelength transmission of said reflective element is substantially equal to the predominant wavelength of light rays emitted by said information display.

23. A rearview mirror assembly as in claim 22 wherein said reflective element is automatically dimming and the intensity of said backlit liquid crystal display is a function of an ambient light sensor.

24. A rearview mirror assembly as in claim 22 wherein said reflective element is automatically dimming and the intensity of said backlit liquid crystal display is a function of a glare light sensor.

25. A rearview mirror assembly, comprising:
a backlit liquid crystal display positioned behind an automatically dimming reflective element, wherein the intensity of said backlit liquid crystal display is a function of an ambient light sensor.

26. A rearview mirror assembly as in claim 25 wherein said reflective element is automatically dimming and the intensity of said backlit liquid crystal display is further a function of a glare light sensor.

27. A rearview mirror assembly, comprising:
a backlit liquid crystal display positioned behind an automatically dimming reflective element, wherein the intensity of said backlit liquid crystal display is a function of a glare light sensor.

28. A rearview mirror assembly, comprising:
a backlit liquid crystal display positioned behind an automatically dimming reflective element, wherein the contrast of said backlit liquid crystal display is a function of an ambient light sensor.
29. A rearview mirror assembly as in claim 25 wherein said reflective element is automatically dimming and the contrast of said backlit liquid crystal display is further a function of a glare light sensor.
30. A rearview mirror assembly, comprising:
a backlit liquid crystal display positioned behind an automatically dimming reflective element, wherein the contrast of said backlit liquid crystal display is a function of an glare light sensor.